

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) ~~Screw A screw closing cap (1), designed to cooperate with a neck (5) of a receptacle, typically a bottle designed to contain an alcoholic drink such as wine, the said neck (5) forming a mouth lip (50) on the an upper part and comprising an outer thread (52) on its a sidewall and a recessed part (53) on which the said cap (1) will be crimped, the said cap (1) comprising:~~

a) an outer shell (2) ~~typically including an outer head and an outer skirt,~~

b) an insert (3), ~~typically made of plastic, the said insert (3) being contained in the said shell (2) and being fixed to the said shell (2) and comprising an inner head (30) and an inner skirt (31) provided with an inner thread (33) designed to cooperate with the outer thread (52) of the said neck (5), and~~

c) a seal (4) ~~typically forming an add-on part fixed to the said insert, the said seal (4) comprising a central part (40) part and a peripheral part or edge (41), characterised in that the said insert (3) comprises a means (6) of radially compressing the said seal (4) in contact with the said neck (5), such that~~

when the said closing cap (1) is screwed to the said neck (5), the said edge (41) is compressed radially between the said insert (3) and the said neck (5), and thus the seal and the opening torque of the said cap (1) are to a large extent independent of the axial position of the said cap (1) with respect to the said neck (5),

and in that the said radial compression means (6) is formed as follows: wherein

a) the said inner skirt ~~(31)~~ comprises a circular tab ~~(32)~~ with an axial spacing ~~equal to h_1~~ from the said inner head ~~(30)~~ forming the a bottom of the said insert, the said distance ~~h_1 typically varying from 0.5 mm to 5 mm~~, so as to form an annular groove ~~(35)~~ with an axial height equal to at least ~~the a~~ thickness e of the said seal ~~(4)~~, the said annular groove ~~(35)~~ being limited at ~~its a~~ top part by the said circular tab ~~(32)~~ and at ~~its a~~ lower part ~~typically by the said thread (33)~~, the said tab ~~(32)~~ having a radial width l ~~typically varying from 0.2 mm to 2 mm~~,

b) ~~the a~~ diameter of the said seal ~~(4)~~ may be chosen is such that the said peripheral edge ~~(41)~~ is capable of cooperating cooperates with the said annular groove ~~(35)~~, the said seal ~~(4)~~ having an annular overlap area areas with the said tab and ~~typically with the said thread called the upper annular overlap area and the lower annular overlap area respectively, so that the~~ said seal ~~(4)~~ remains fixed to the said insert ~~(3)~~ before the

said cap ~~11~~ is screwed onto ~~the~~ said neck ~~5~~, or after ~~the~~ said cap ~~11~~ is unscrewed from ~~the~~ said neck ~~5~~,

c) said circular tab has a flexible radial end and a radial width such that, when the said cap ~~11~~ is screwed onto the said neck ~~5~~, the said tab (32) or a flexible radial end (320) of the said circular tab ~~32~~ and the said border (41) peripheral edge of the said seal ~~44~~ cooperate, the said circular tab ~~32~~ or the said flexible radial end (320) applying the said a radial compression ~~6~~ on the said border (41) peripheral edge, so as to apply the said border peripheral edge in contact with the said neck ~~5~~ and typically an upper part (51) of the said neck, forming an overlap area ~~60~~ inclined at more than 45° from the vertieal (41) horizontal between the said peripheral edge and said circular tab or the said radial end (320), thus sealing the said cap ~~11~~ screwed to the said neck ~~5~~.

18. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17 in which ~~the~~ said insert ~~3~~ comprises a plurality of notches or retaining pins ~~34~~, typically 3 notches arranged at 120° from each other, so as to provide ~~the~~ said lower annular overlap area instead of or in addition to ~~the~~ said thread ~~33~~, so as to fix the said seal ~~44~~ to ~~the~~ said insert ~~3~~.

19. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17, in which ~~the~~ a thickness of ~~the~~ said inner skirt ~~31~~ of ~~the~~

said insert $\{3\}$ at the a bottom of the thread $\{33\}$ varies from 0.1 mm to 1 mm, and typically from is between 0.15 mm to and 0.5 mm.

20. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17 in which the said insert $\{3\}$ is a threaded and typically moulded insert made of a thermoplastic material, typically chosen from among PS, PET, PA, and polyolefins such as PE or PP.

21. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17 in which the said shell $\{2\}$ is an aluminium or tin metal shell, or may be made of a crimpable multilayer metalloplastic material.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17 in which the said insert $\{3\}$ has a height H_3 less than the a height H_2 of the said shell $\{2\}$.

24. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 23 in which the height H_2 of the said shell $\{2\}$ is at least twice as high as the height H_3 of the said insert $\{3\}$ so as to form a cap with a long skirt.

25. (currently amended) ~~Gap~~ The cap according to claim 24 in which the said shell ~~(2)~~ comprises a means of detecting or facilitating a first opening, ~~typically a line of weakness (22)~~ or ~~a first opening strip formed on the said outer skirt, the said~~ means being located at a height between ~~He and H1~~ the height of said shell and the height of the insert, such that ~~the~~ said means is located above ~~the~~ said recessed part ~~(53)~~ of ~~the~~ said neck ~~(5)~~ when ~~the~~ said cap ~~(1)~~ is screwed onto ~~the~~ said neck ~~(5)~~, ~~the~~ said cap ~~(1)~~ being crimped to ~~the~~ said neck ~~(5)~~ by local deformation of ~~the~~ said outer skirt ~~(21)~~ of ~~the~~ said shell ~~(2)~~ in ~~the~~ said recessed part ~~(53)~~, such that ~~the~~ said cap ~~(1)~~ cannot be unscrewed without breaking ~~the line of weakness or removing the said strip~~ said means of detecting or facilitating a first opening.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) ~~Gap~~ The cap according to claim 26 in which ~~the~~ said insert ~~(3)~~ includes a means of detecting or facilitating a first opening, ~~the~~ said inner skirt of ~~the~~ said insert including an attachment means in ~~its~~ a lower part designed to cooperate with ~~the~~ said recessed part when ~~the~~ said cap is screwed and crimped to ~~the~~ said neck.

28. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17 in which ~~the~~ said shell ~~{2}~~ has a radius of curvature RC of the said shell at ~~the~~ a junction between ~~the~~ said outer head and ~~the~~ said outer skirt ~~varying from 0.5 mm to 5 mm, and typically equal to between~~ 1.5 mm ~~or~~ and 2.5 mm.

29. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 28 in which ~~the~~ said shell ~~{2}~~ has a radius of curvature RC equal to at least 2 mm, and ~~the~~ said insert ~~{3}~~ ~~may have~~ has a radius of curvature RCI ~~typically substantially~~ equal to RC, such that ~~the~~ an entire part of ~~the~~ said shell compresses ~~the~~ said insert or is in contact with ~~the~~ said insert, and ~~the~~ said insert thus has an improved resistance at high temperature.

30. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17 in which ~~the~~ said insert and ~~the~~ said shell are fixed by at least one of force fitting and ~~/ or by~~ an adhesive layer fixing ~~the~~ said outer skirt ~~{21}~~ and inner skirt ~~{31}~~ together.

31. (currently amended) ~~Cap~~ The cap according to claim 17 in which a complementary element is fixed to ~~the~~ said insert ~~{3}~~ or to ~~the~~ said seal ~~{4}~~, the said complementary element being designed to remain fixed to ~~the~~ said neck ~~{5}~~ after ~~the~~ said cap ~~{11}~~ has been unscrewed, ~~the~~ said complementary element typically forming a pouring spout {7}.

32. (currently amended) ~~Gap~~ The cap according to claim 18, in which ~~the~~ a thickness of ~~the~~ said inner skirt (31) of the said insert (3) at ~~the~~ a bottom of the thread (33) varies from 0.1 mm to 1 mm, and typically from is between 0.15 mm to and 0.5 mm.

33. (new) A screw closing cap, configured to cooperate with a neck of a receptacle, said neck forming a mouth lip on an upper part and comprising an outer thread on a sidewall and a recessed part on which said cap is to be crimped, said cap comprising:

an outer shell,

an insert contained in said shell and being fixed to said shell and comprising an inner head and an inner skirt provided with an inner thread designed to cooperate with the outer thread of said neck, and

a horizontal seal forming an add-on part fixed to said insert, said seal comprising a central part and a peripheral edge,

said inner skirt comprises a circular tab with an axial spacing from said inner head, so as to form an annular groove, said annular groove being delimited at a top part by said circular tab and at a lower part by said thread,

a diameter of said seal is such that said peripheral edge cooperates with said annular groove, said seal having annular overlap areas with said tab and with said thread and comprising an upper annular overlap area and a lower annular overlap area respectively, so that said seal remains fixed to said insert before said cap is screwed onto said neck, or after said cap is unscrewed from said neck,

said circular tab has a flexible radial end such that, when said cap is screwed onto said neck, said flexible radial end moves from a horizontal first position to a second position forming an overlap area with said peripheral edge inclined at more than 45° from the horizontal.